

King County Parks **Your**  King County
Big Backyard



2006
Third Quarter Report
Parks Omnibus Ordinance Report
to the King County Council
January - September, 2006

Highlights of the Third Quarter

- ❖ The Division continues to make good progress implementing the business plan in key areas of increasing business revenue, transferring local facilities, promoting volunteer opportunities and community partnerships.
- ❖ Overall, business revenues received through the third quarter are substantially higher than through the third quarter last year. This is primarily due to several successful entrepreneurial efforts, such as the Starbucks partnership, a successful concert series at Marymoor Park, and revenue from the Cirque de Soliel.
- ❖ The Concert Series at Marymoor Park was very successful, providing over 100% more revenue for the Division than last year. In addition, the Division has been successful at increasing revenues at the King County Aquatic Center, and continues to seek high-profile national and state events that benefit both the facility and the region.
- ❖ In August, Executive Sims and Mayor John Wise announced the transfer of the King County Fairgrounds to the City of Enumclaw (the County Council has subsequently approved the transfer). This facility is expected to play a role in boosting tourism for the City of Enumclaw.
- ❖ Volunteer efforts continue to play an important role for the Division. The Community Partnership Grants program is very active, with over 20 partnership projects already implemented or under development.

Contents

Introduction	4
Revenues	5-15
Entrepreneurial Strategies	16-18
Gifts, Bequests, Donations & Grants	19
Agreements & Partnerships (Community Partnership Grants Program)	20
Transferring Assets	21-22
Community Outreach and Involvement	23
Financial Plan – Third Quarter 2006	Appendix A

Parks & Recreation Division 2006 Third Quarter Report

Introduction

The Omnibus Parks Ordinance (Ordinance 14509), adopted November 18, 2002, by the King County Council, included this reporting requirement for the Parks and Recreation Division:

“The division shall provide a written report to the council, filed with the clerk of the council, at least four times each year, by March 15, June 15, September 15, and December 15, and more frequently as directed by the council by motion, regarding the execution of the division’s duties and responsibilities as established in K.C.C. 2.16.045.E. Following transmittal of each written report, the division shall also make an oral presentation to the council. The written reports and oral presentations shall include, but shall not be limited to, information as to the division’s efforts in:

- A. Meeting revenue targets under section 7 of this ordinance;*
- B. Implementing entrepreneurial strategies including advertising, leasing and concession agreements;*
- C. Pursuing gifts, bequests and donations, including the value and sources of gifts, bequests and donations received;*
- D. Developing agreements with other organizations to provide recreation services;*
- E. Transferring parks and recreation assets within incorporated areas or potential annexation areas to cities; and*
- F. Community outreach and involvement.”*

This is our fourth year of reporting on the accomplishments of the Division. Quarterly reports were transmitted for each quarter in 2003, 2004, 2005, and now, for 2006. This year is also the third year of the Parks Levy fund, approved by the voters in 2003 with collections to run from January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2007.

We have refined and restructured the Quarterly Report to correspond to the Ordinance requirements more directly. We welcome your ideas and input. Please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Brown or Tom Koney of the King County Parks and Recreation Division at 206-296-8687 if you have any questions or suggestions.

Revenues - Summary

Parks & Recreation Division Revenues

2006 Adopted Revenues	\$20,634,369
2006 Revised Revenues	\$21,649,077
2006 Estimated Revenues ¹	\$21,574,059
2005 Actual Revenues	\$20,377,067

Third Quarter - Business Revenues Only

Levy funds, interest earnings, interfund transfers and similar revenues that are not within the control of the Division are excluded from this total.

Actual Business Revenues² (includes user fees & enterprise/entrepreneurial revenues)

January 1 - September 30, 2006	\$4,260,312
January 1 - September 30, 2005	\$3,555,459

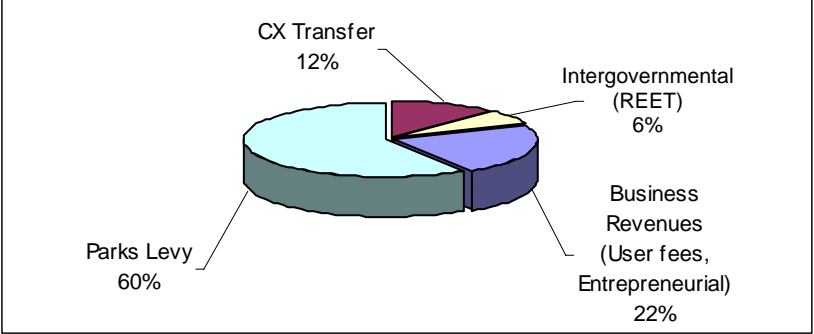
Third quarter total business revenues in 2006 were higher than the same period in 2005, due primarily to enterprise/entrepreneurial revenues, including revenues from the Trails Wayfinding Kiosk partnership with Starbucks, Cirque du Soleil and concerts at Marymoor Park. While the Division is pleased with these results, it recognizes that many of these revenues will not be available next year (for example, the Cirque de Soleil is not likely to return to Marymoor Park until 2008 or 2009). The Division will be challenged to seek new entrepreneurial activities next year to maintain and increase this revenue stream.

Even with a reduced asset base (due to transfer of facilities), business revenues still comprise about 22% of the total Adopted Parks Revenue budget, the same percentage as in 2002, at the beginning of the Business Plan (see charts, following page). The ensuing period has seen transfers of facilities, mostly pools, which generated over \$2,000,000 in revenues. The business revenue forecast on the remaining assets has risen from a total of about \$2.3 million in 2002 to over \$4.6 million in the 2006 adopted budget.

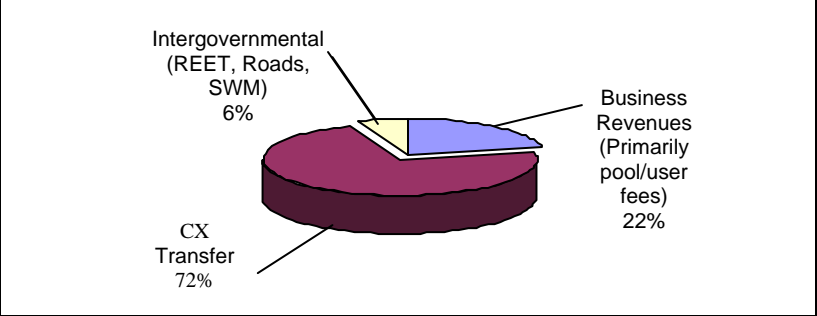
¹ Includes 2006 1st Quarter Omnibus Ordinance, which was passed in July, and revised revenue estimates.

² Based on ARMS financial reports.

2006 Adopted Revenues - \$20.6M



2002 Adopted Revenues - \$26M



Expenditures – Summary

Parks and Recreation Division Expenditures

2006 Adopted Expenditures	\$20,888,426
2006 Revised Expenditures ³	\$22,212,171
2005 Actual Expenditures ⁴	\$19,372,702
2005 Adopted Expenditures	\$20,534,400
2005 Revised Expenditures ⁵	\$20,390,311

Third Quarter 2006 - Actual Expenditures

January 1 - September 30, 2006	\$15,986,505
January 1 - September 30, 2005	\$14,332,619

With three quarters of the year having passed, expenditures were 72% of the Division's revised expenditure budget. This expenditure pattern is in line with historic business trends.

In 2005, the Division underexpended its budget by around 5%. This underexpenditure reflected the Division's deliberate attempt to be frugal, given the uncertain nature of business revenues and the need to build a prudent fund balance. In January 2004, the Division began with a fund balance of zero, but the fund balance in the levy fund now achieves the financial planning target. The Division continues to look for ways to increase efficiencies and control expenditures. The Division intends to more fully expend its appropriated budget on maintaining and operating parks and facilities, now that it has achieved its target fund balance.

³ Reflects 2006 1st Quarter Omnibus Ordinance, which was passed in July.

⁴ 2005 figures are per 2005 CAFR.

⁵ Reflects automated carryover and disappropriations in the 2005 1st and 2nd Quarter Omnibus Ordinances.

Revenues - Implementing the Business Plan Key Business Units, Third Quarter Review

Marymoor Park



Marymoor Business Unit

	2006 thru Q3	2005 thru Q3	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Traditional				
Rev - facilities	\$ 154,926	\$ 50,275	\$ 104,651	208%
Rev - fields	\$ 164,531	\$ 296,361	\$ (131,830)	-44%
Non-Traditional				
Rev - parking	\$ 289,786	\$ 312,766	\$ (22,980)	-7%
Rev - campground	\$ 12,104	\$ 561	\$ 11,543	2058%
Rev - concerts	\$ 142,177	\$ 69,666	\$ 72,511	104%
Rev - concert ticket sales	\$ 3,976	\$ 212	\$ 3,764	1775%
Rev - Subway	\$ 15,927	\$ 16,867	\$ (940)	-6%
Rev - Pet Garden	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ 750	
Sponsors/concessions	\$ 40,461	\$ 36,629	\$ 3,832	10%
MSN WiFi	\$ -	\$ 75,000	\$ (75,000)	-100%
Cirque	\$ 552,600	\$ -	\$ 552,600	
Naming rights	\$ 105,000	\$ 105,000	\$ -	0%
Revenues - Total (rounded)	\$ 1,482,000	\$ 963,000	\$ 519,000	54%
Expenditures (rounded)*	\$ 1,459,000	\$ 1,037,000	\$ 422,000	41%

*Expenditures include only direct costs, and do not include maintenance labor loaned in from other work units ("loan-in labor"). In the year-end (4th Quarter) report, annual expenditures will be reported along with annual revenues, and compared against the cost-recovery targets established in Ordinance 14509.

Third Quarter Highlights include:

- ❖ To date, revenues at Marymoor are up over 40% from the same period last year, due primarily to entrepreneurial activities like the Cirque de Soleil (earlier this year) and the concert series at Marymoor Park.
- ❖ The 2006 concert series was very successful – Division revenues from the concert series were up over 100% from last year, due to strong attendance.
- ❖ Marymoor hosted a number of new summer events that could become annual rental opportunities. The Hoop-it-up basketball tournament utilized the new Recreation and Event area and brought over 100 teams and \$5,500 in revenue. Sweetfest generated \$32,000 in new revenue and the Greek Festival another \$5,000. Facility rental revenue is up significantly.
- ❖ Field revenues at Marymoor Park are down from last year due to field closures earlier in the year because the sand fields were being replaced by field turf. On September 22nd, four new artificial turf fields opened for use at Marymoor Park. These fields are in high demand and are expected to yield substantially higher gross and net revenues because they require little to no maintenance and are very weather-resistant. The NFL held an event called “Street Uplugged” on the new fields the second day of operation, generating over \$9,000.

Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center



Aquatic Center Business Unit

	2006 thru Q3	2005 thru Q3	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Traditional				
Rev - facilities	\$ 482,814	\$ 447,129	\$ 35,685	8%
Rev - courses	\$ 120,591	\$ 112,619	\$ 7,972	7%
Rev - drop in	\$ 44,725	\$ 36,431	\$ 8,294	23%
Rev - Conference Ctr	\$ 25,794	\$ 18,000	\$ 7,794	43%
Non-Traditional				
Rev - Subway	\$ 18,115	\$ 14,820	\$ 3,295	22%
Rev - concessions	\$ 589	\$ 1,254	\$ (665)	-53%
MSN WiFi	\$ -	\$ 25,000	\$ (25,000)	-100%
Revenues - Total (rounded)	\$ 693,000	\$ 655,000	\$ 37,000	6%
Expenditures (rounded)*	\$ 1,158,000	\$ 1,115,000	\$ 43,000	4%

*Expenditures include only direct costs, and do not include maintenance labor loaned in from other work units ("loan-in labor"). In the year-end (4th Quarter) report, annual expenditures will be reported along with annual revenues, and compared against the cost-recovery targets established in Ordinance 14590.

Third Quarter Highlights include:

- ❖ For the year to date, revenues at the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center are up about 6% compared to the same period last year, largely due to facility rentals and user fees.
- ❖ In July the KCAC served as the venue for major competitive events. This included the Speedo Champion Series, which involved over 800 top athletes from all states in the western U.S. The KCAC had more than 1,500 spectators daily during the five day event. The following week the KCAC was the venue for the Pacific Northwest Swimming Championship with over 900 athletes from the state of Washington, attended by over 1,500 spectators daily.
- ❖ In August, the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center participated in the Federal Way Festival Days, to promote the Center's programs. The Festival Days 5K and 10K races started and finished in the KCAC parking lot.

- ❖ Aggressive pursuit of national events is part of the Division's strategy to maximize revenue and use of the facility – and such events also provide economic benefits to the region. The KCAC submitted a bid to host the 2008 Olympic Trials for Diving in conjunction with the City of Federal Way and the Seattle Sports and Events Council. Mike Dunwiddie, Paul Doherty, the City of Federal Way and Ralph Morton, the Seattle Sports and Events Council traveled to Indianapolis, IN for the presentation in September.

The King County Fairgrounds at Enumclaw



King County Fairgrounds Business Unit

	2006 thru Q3	2005 thru Q3	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Traditional				
Rev - facilities	\$ 112,997	\$ 145,004	\$ (32,007)	-22%
Rev - Annual Fair	\$ 423,724	\$ 514,558	\$ (90,834)	-18%
Non-Traditional				
Rev - campgrounds	\$ 15,579	\$ 15,727	\$ (148)	-1%
Revenues - Total (rounded)	\$ 552,000	\$ 675,000	\$ (123,000)	-18%
Expenditures (rounded)*	\$ 823,000	\$ 768,000	\$ 55,000	7%

*Expenditures include only direct costs, and do not include maintenance labor loaned in from other work units ("loan-in labor"). In the year-end (4th Quarter) report, annual expenditures will be reported along with annual revenues, and compared against the cost-recovery targets established in Ordinance 14590.

Third Quarter Highlights include:

- ❖ Overall, revenues from the fairgrounds are down from the same period last year, as Fair revenues and attendance were hampered by the heat wave experienced during the Fair.
- ❖ Executive Ron Sims and Enumclaw Mayor John Wise held a press conference at the Fairgrounds in late August to announce an agreement to transfer the King County Fairgrounds to the City of Enumclaw at the beginning of 2007. (In the Fourth Quarter, the transfer was subsequently approved by the King County Council). The Fairgrounds is anticipated to play a major role in boosting tourism for the City of Enumclaw.
- ❖ The Division held the 144th County fair in early July. The Fair had great entertainment, including Blaine Larsen, a Demolition Derby, local and regional musicians, a Monster Truck, and Matt Hasselbeck! It also had record setting days of heat, which contributed to the lower attendance.

- ❖ The Fairgrounds was host to a Department of Natural Resources base camp for the Greenwater forest fire in September. Over 400 firefighters were accommodated at the Fairgrounds.
- ❖ Operations for the Fairgrounds for the remainder of the year will largely include getting the facility ready for transfer. While the Division will not own or operate the Fairgrounds in 2007, the Division will operate the Fair, and will continue to receive business revenues from that event.

Recreation, Ballfields and Facilities



Ballfields and Recreation Business Unit

	2006 thru Q3	2005 thru Q3	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Traditional				
Rev - Ballfields	\$ 226,781	\$ 200,499	\$ 26,282	13%
Rev - Facilities	\$ 141,823	\$ 120,760	\$ 21,063	17%
Non-Traditional				
Rev - RV Camping	\$ 37,595	\$ 26,874	\$ 10,721	40%
Revenues - Total (rounded)	\$ 406,000	\$ 348,000	\$ 58,000	17%

Note: Expenditure information on fields/recreational facilities is tracked annually, and will be discussed in the 4th Quarter Report.

Third Quarter Highlights Include:

- ❖ Overall, revenues from ballfields and recreation facilities are up about 17% from last year. Triathlons, trail events, festivals, birthday parties, picnics and athletic events all helped boost revenues this year.
- ❖ Seattle 3-Day Breast Cancer held their “mini-city” at our Big Finn Hill Park where 3,000 campers stayed in tents for the weekend-long event.
- ❖ Business is booming at Tolt-McDonald Park Campground, as evidenced by an increase in revenue of 40% over last year.

Swimming Pools



Swimming Pools (Other than the Aquatic Center) Includes Evergreen, Renton, Vashon and Cottage Lake Facilities

	2006 thru Q3	2005 thru Q3	Change (\$)	Change (%)
Traditional				
Rev - Pool Fees	\$ 509,468	\$ 536,130	\$ (26,662)	-5%
Non-Traditional				
Rev - Concessions	\$ 707	\$ 1,324	\$ (617)	-47%
Revenues - Total (rounded)	\$ 510,000	\$ 537,000	\$ (27,000)	-5%
Expenditures (rounded)*	\$ 796,000	\$ 800,000	\$ (4,000)	-1%

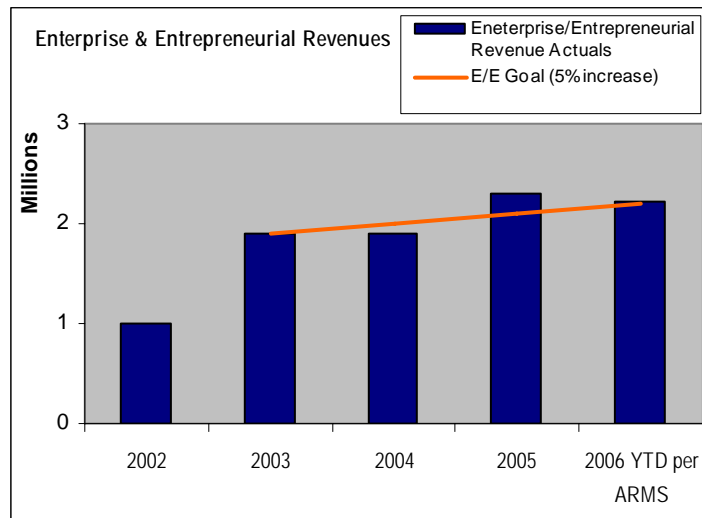
*Expenditures include only direct costs, and do not include maintenance labor loaned in from other work units ("loan-in labor"). In the year-end (4th Quarter) report, annual expenditures will be reported along with annual revenues, and compared against the cost-recovery targets established in Ordinance 14590.

Third Quarter Highlights Include:

- ❖ Overall, revenues from the Division's other pools are down about 5 percent compared to last year. This is largely due to temporary closures and repair work at the Evergreen and Vashon Pools.
- ❖ The Aquatic Section of the Parks Division concluded its Summer Programs at its two outdoor pools, (Cottage Lake and Vashon) and two indoor pools, (Renton and Evergreen).
- ❖ The four pools offered over 30,000 individual swimming lessons and served over 50,000 patrons during the summer of 2006 without a serious accident or injury. The Vashon Pool and Renton Pool combined to show nine float-in movies and the Cottage Lake and Vashon Pools additionally hosted the free State-wide, Water Safety and Boating Safety Program, "Summer Splashtacular."

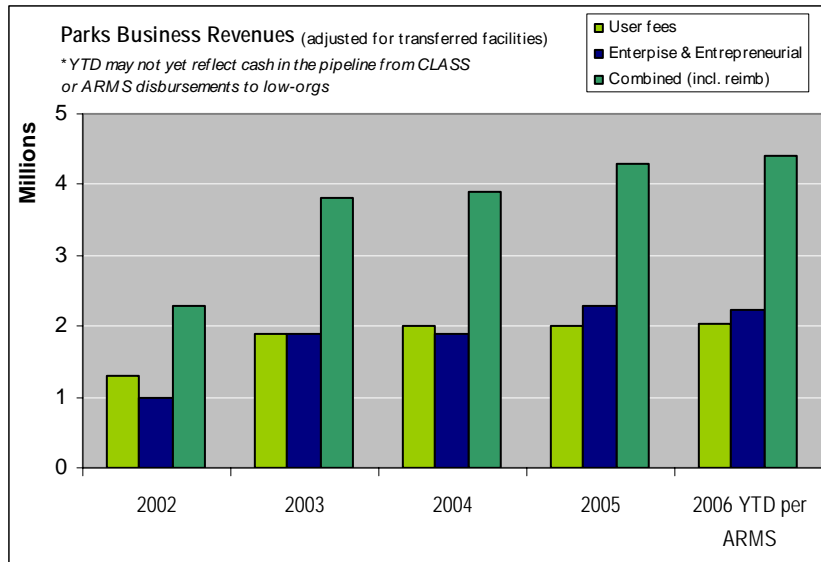
Implementing Entrepreneurial Strategies New Ways of Raising Revenues

By the end of the Third Quarter of 2006, the Parks Division exceeded the end of year goal of a 5% annual increase (from 2003) in enterprise/entrepreneurial revenues (see graph below). Success in 2006 is largely due to availability of the Parks Opportunity Fund which provided the necessary capital investments that led to \$550,000 in revenue from Cirque du Soleil, and a Starbucks Trails Initiative one time grant of \$250,000.



As the Department of Natural Resources and Parks develops strategies for long-term funding options, including a possible levy, Parks will maximize enterprise/entrepreneurial revenue along with exploring other strategies (efficiencies) to minimize the tax subsidy needed for active recreation facilities. Parks will continue to foster and develop corporate, non-profit and community based partnerships in an effort to increase revenues and leverage Revenue Enhancement and Opportunity Fund capital dollars.

Overall business revenues include **user fee revenues & enterprise/entrepreneurial revenues**. The Division defines user fees as more traditional activities such as; pool fees, field rentals, and recreational programs, and are generated according to what the market will bear. Enterprise/entrepreneurial revenues include a myriad of other non-traditional activities, ranging from corporate sponsorships, timber revenues, parking, and facility rentals (including concert series & Cirque du Soleil) and are generated in relation to the creativity of our Parks team.



Enterprise/entrepreneurial revenues occur throughout the park system and several initiatives have been identified already in individual business unit descriptions. Enterprise/entrepreneurial success in 2006 is largely due to the \$550,000 from Cirque du Soleil (due back at Marymoor in 2008 or 2009) and Starbucks Trails Initiative one-time grant of \$250,000.

Third Quarter Highlights Include:

- ❖ Revenues from sales SUBWAY locations, which came to \$12,000 in the third quarter.
- ❖ Sale of gravel from property on Maury Island in the third quarter came to \$27,000.
- ❖ First Tech Movies at Marymoor (Wednesday night outdoor movies at Marymoor Park) brought in about \$17,000 in event revenue.
- ❖ Concerts at Marymoor Park, which brought in \$140,000 in 2006 compared to \$65,000 in 2005. The 2006 US Bank Concerts at Marymoor success is expected to trigger a fourth quarter sponsorship settlement of \$35,000 to the Division.
- ❖ Installation of two reflexology walking paths within our parks, which led to a pledge of \$10,000 from AegisLiving over two years.

- ❖ “King County Parks – Your Big Backyard” Division branding continued. Positive branding ensures our ability to communicate an upbeat and consistent vision, which is critical to developing corporate partnerships that in turn lead to enterprise revenues.

The Division continues to aggressively pursue mutually beneficial and financially lucrative agreements through the Partnership for Parks program. Partnership for Parks initiatives can include: concessions (such as Subway); naming rights (such as the Group Health Velodrome); event sponsorships (such as US Bank Concerts at Marymoor); gifts/grants (such as Support Parks! postage stamps); marketing/advertising (such as Dasani Blue Bikes); and utilities and lease agreements (such as cell towers).

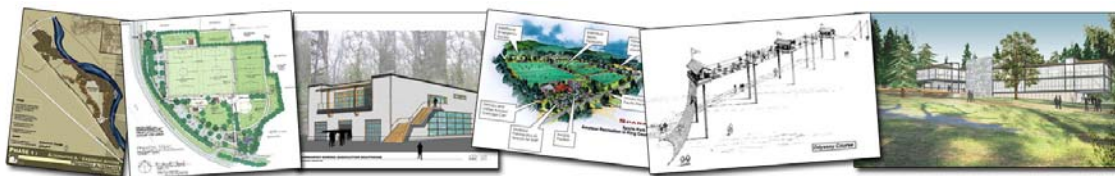
Pursuing Gifts, Bequests, Donations & Grants

- ❖ King County Parks received \$60,000 worth of restoration work (including over \$4,000 worth of trees) at Tollgate Farm via the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust and the City of North Bend.
- ❖ Chipotle donated 10,000 free burrito cards (valued at \$70,000) in support of the Parks Volunteer program. Anyone who donates time supporting the park system through its volunteer program will be 'thanked' with a free burrito.

Agreements with Other Organizations - Community Partnership and Grants Program (CPG)

The Community Partnership and Grants Program (CPG) continues to develop partnerships for new facilities and amenities throughout King County. There are currently over 20 partnership projects either already implemented or in development that represent over \$1.8 million in grant requests. Once completed, these projects will contain over \$30 million in leveraged community investment (cash, in-kind, donations, volunteers, etc.) and will result in nearly \$40 million worth of new facilities and amenities. Per the tenants of the CPG program and the Business Plan, these improvements will result in little or no new tax-funded operations and maintenance costs due to the supplemental maintenance and programming commitments made by the community partners.

Groundbreakings and announcements will occur throughout 2006 and 2007 and some projects will be complete and operational beginning in mid-2007. Below are some of the CPG project highlights:



Regional RC Flying Facility

Site: Hobart Landfill
Partner: Lake Sawyer Hawks

New Baseball Fields

Site: Houghton Landfill
Partner: Kirkland American Little League

New Velodrome Race Building

Site: Marymoor Park
Partner: Marymoor Velodrome Association (MVA)

New 100+ Acre Mountainbike Riding Area and Skills Park

Site: Duthie Hill Park
Partner: Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club (BBTC)

New Birdloop and Interpretive Gazebo/Signage

Site: Marymoor Park
Partner: East Lake Washington Audubon Society

New Whitewater Recreation River Access Park

Site: Tanner Landing
Partner: American Whitewater

New Community Center

Site: Lakewood Park
Partner: Technology Access Found.

New Community Park

Site: Mirrmont Park
Partner: Mirrmont Community Association

New Synthetic Turf Complex and Community Park

Site: Preston Athletic Fields
Partners: Preston Community Club, Eastside FC (EYSA), and Issaquah Little League

New Boathouse

Site: Marymoor Park
Partner: Sammamish Rowing Association (SRA)

Challenge Course

Site: Cottage Lake Park
Partner: YMCA

New Synthetic Turf Regional Rugby Complex

Site: Unincorporated King County
Partner: NW Parks Foundation

For more details on the CPG Program visit: www.metrokc.gov/parks/cpg/

Transferring Parks and Recreation Assets

Transferring local parks to cities and focusing on rural and regional programs is a key element of the Business Plan. Consistent with the Business Plan, the transfer of parks and pools within the urban growth area is being discussed as part of a broader county annexation strategy. However, the Division will also seek to transfer properties in advance of actual annexations whenever possible.

In the third quarter of 2006, the Parks Division transmitted an ordinance to transfer Sammamish Cove, Meerwood, Timberlake and the Lewis Creek Natural Area to the City of Issaquah. A draft agreement with the City of Renton includes Sierra Heights/Honey Dew, Maplewood Heights, and the Cedar to Sammamish Trail site. Negotiations with the City of Renton are ongoing. As mentioned earlier, Executive Ron Sims and Enumclaw Mayor John Wise announced the pending transfer of the King County Fairgrounds in August, which was approved by the County Council in the fourth quarter.

The Division has made significant progress transferring properties since the development of the business plan. Due to State legislative changes, the Division anticipates swifter annexations and park transfers of the few eligible remaining sites. When the Business Plan was developed in 2002, the Parks and Recreation Division had local pools and local parks that cost over \$7 million to operate inside the urban growth area boundary.

The parks and facilities that have been transferred include:

Auburn Pool	City of Auburn
Auburndale Two Park	City of Auburn
Beaver Lake Park	City of Sammamish
Bridle Crest Trail (Redmond)	City of Redmond
Coal Creek Park	City of Bellevue
Des Moines Creek Park	City of SeaTac
East Auburn Athletic Fields	City of Auburn
Eastgate Park	City of Bellevue
Enumclaw Golf Course	City of Enumclaw
Enumclaw Pool	City of Enumclaw
Federal Way Pool	City of Federal Way
Fort Dent Park	City of Tukwila
Grandview Park	City of SeaTac
Jenkins Creek Park	City of Covington
Juanita Beach Park	City of Kirkland
Kent Pool	City of Kent
Lake Burien School Site	City of Burien

Lake Heights Park	City of Bellevue
Lake Sawyer Park	City of Black Diamond
Lake Wilderness Park	City of Maple Valley
Lea Hill Park	City of Auburn
Luther Burbank Park	City of Mercer Island
Manor Hill Park	City of Bellevue
Mercer Island Pool	City of Mercer Island & Northwest Center
Mt. Rainier Pool	Cities of Des Moines & Normandy Park, & Highline SD
Northshore Pool	Northwest Center
OO Denny Park	City of Seattle
Redmond Pool	Northwest Center
Salmon Creek Park	City of Burien
Shamrock Park	Si View Metropolitan Park District
Si View Park/Si View Pool	Si View Metropolitan Park District
Slough House Park	City of Redmond
South Central Pool	City of Tukwila
South Park Farm	City of Seattle
Tahoma Pool	City of Covington
Three Forks Natural Area	City of Snoqualmie

The Division continues to work with cities and parks districts on the transfer of remaining local/UGA facilities, including:

Bridle Crest Trail	City of Bellevue
West Hill Park	City of Bothell
Sportsman Park	City of Enumclaw
Juanita Triangle	Finn Hill Park and Recreation District
Juanita Heights	Finn Hill Park and Recreation District
Sammamish Cove	City of Issaquah
Meerwood Park	City of Issaquah
Klahanie	City of Issaquah
Swamp Creek	City of Kenmore
Inglewood Wetlands	City of Kenmore
Tollgate Farm – middle site	City of North Bend
Maplewood Park	City of Renton
May Creek Park	City of Renton
Sunset Playfield	City of SeaTac

In addition to the transfer agreements and efforts identified above, the county has long-term lease agreements for operations of the following facilities:

Gold Greek Lodge	Operated by Boys & Girls Club of King County
West Hill Community Center	Operated by Boys & Girls Club of King County

Community Outreach and Involvement

Volunteers continue to be a major force in maintaining and improving King County Parks. In the third quarter, over 1,560 volunteers participated in 39 volunteer events, giving a total of over 5,700 hours. This work included: picking up litter; walking trails to observe changes or conditions to report to park staff and to assist other trail users; constructing picnic table pads in campsites at Tolt-MacDonald Park & Campground; trail restoration work to keep trails useable and safe; building/maintaining trails; potting plants and performing other necessary tasks to help keep the Greenhouse productive; weeding flowerbeds at the Clise Mansion; and helping to remove invasive plants such as Scot's Broom, blackberries, and ivy in parks and natural areas.

A sample of some of the specific volunteer events includes:

- ❖ United Way's annual 'Day of Caring', which brought over 315 volunteers from Microsoft who gave 1945 hours at 11 different work parties at Cottage Lake; Tolt MacDonald Park & Campground; Soaring Eagle; Marymoor; Taylor Mt. Forest; Cougar Mountain; Sammamish River Trail and the Green House. Their incredible efforts helped to improve campsites, clear vast amounts of Scot's Broom, landscape a trail head, improve trails and weed nursery stock.
- ❖ Work by six volunteer Park Ambassadors, who provided over 150 hours of volunteer service observing trail conditions, providing information for park goers, picking up litter and doing minor trail maintenance in areas such as Red Town Meadow, Kingsgate Park, Ring Hill Forest, Snoqualmie Valley Trail, Soos Creek Park, and Mary Cash natural area.

Reconnecting People to Their Parks: Outreach and Reconnecting Strategy

On December 1, 2005, Parks launched a pilot web-based feedback tool for several parks, trails, ballfields and pools. This customer feedback tool has also helped the Division to identify areas of concern in the system, such as vandalism, and immediately respond to citizens comments. This consistent feedback loop is one tool being used to connect to our citizens and user groups. Park users appear to appreciate the Division's efforts to promptly reply to their concerns and every effort is made to resolve the issue.

The pilot program ended and the Division expanded this program system-wide in the second quarter. The website and survey was developed and is hosted on www.parksfeedback.com. The Division will track user trends and comments, and use this data to help develop long-term funding and system priorities.

The feedback system does not provide a statistical gauge for constituent satisfaction. However, it is a powerful tool that provides us the ability to communicate promptly and directly with citizens who have feedback for our system. This tool also provides a prioritized short, medium and long-term list of maintenance issues and capital improvement needs. Some examples of comments received in the third quarter are listed below.

Cedar River Trail - I really appreciate the biking trails in KC. I use them often. thank you.

What kind of snakes are indigenous to Cavanaugh Pond? I walk the trail there every day and have seen two types of snakes and was wondering what they were.

Better signage is needed on almost all trails. In particular, where trails cross roads (or provide access to roads) there should be a sign indicating what road you're passing. When there's a split in the path (or an ambiguous continuation) there should be a detailed map of the area on a sign to illustrate the route options.

I use both the Snoqualmie Valley Trail and the Preston/Snoqualmie Falls Trail a few times a week. I just wanted to comment on what a wonderful job you are doing on keeping these both up this year. For a few years the sides of the trails weren't cut leaving nettles and blackberries hanging over the trail. This year they are well cut and the new benches on Preston/Snoqualmie Falls trails are just wonderful. I love using both of these trails and I really appreciate all the work you put into keeping them up.